

Ten Years at the Front

Continued from Page 18

The Siege of Ottawa

It was only made possible through having their own paper that the Grain Growers of the west were able to force the tariff question into the field of federal politics. In the summer of 1910, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was preparing to appeal to the country in a general election. He mapped out a tour of the prairie provinces which he had not visited since he had been premier. It was planned as a triumphal march in which the oratory and the personality of the Canadian prime minister would win the support of the western voters. The leaders of the Grain Growers' Movement, however, decided it was a good opportunity to tell Sir Wilfrid Laurier the grievances of the West. They made their plans, and it devolved upon The Guide to rally the Grain Growers in support of the scheme. The result was that wherever Sir Wilfrid Laurier stopped to make a speech in the prairie provinces, he was met by a delegation of grain growers. They told Sir Wilfrid in the plainest words permitted by the English language, just what was wrong with the policy of his government. Sir Wilfrid's education progressed rapidly as he passed through the prairie provinces. At Brandon, he thought the tariff was all right. In Saskatchewan he had his doubts and promised to look into it. Before he got through Alberta however, he was absolutely sure that the tariff was wrong and he promised to appoint a tariff commission to investigate it. But the Grain Growers wanted no tariff commission; they wanted action. The "siege of Ottawa" was planned by the leaders and again The Guide was effective in rallying the Grain Growers. The result was a special train carrying 500 Grain Growers to the House of Commons, where the members of the government and the members of the House of Commons listened for four hours to the farmers of the West, the farmers of Ontario and the Eastern provinces in their demand for justice.

The Reciprocity Defeat

In February 1911 the reciprocity treaty was negotiated with United States and an election was called. R. L. Borden (now Sir Robert Borden, premier of Canada), toured the West in the summer of 1911 and was met by the Grain Growers the same as had been Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Mr. Borden, however, proved obdurate and refused any consideration on the tariff question. The result of the election is well known, and Sir Robert Borden has been Premier of Canada ever since. But the tariff still remains a live issue and will be more lively as the years go by.

It would be impossible to consider in detail the phases of the struggles in which The Guide has taken part. Through having their own paper the leaders of the Grain Growers' Movement have been able to get more closely in touch with their members and to reach them promptly every week. The development of the co-operative movement throughout the world has been brought home and published year by year through The Guide. Thousands of articles on political social and economic questions have reached the farmers through The Guide, which would not have been available had not the farmers published their own official organ.

The Field of The Guide

In short, the policy of The Grain Growers' Guide has been the policy of the organized Grain Growers of the three prairie provinces as laid down in resolutions at their annual conventions. Outside of such questions The Guide has followed the course of progress and democracy and sought to give its readers the best thought towards the development of the highest civilization. Contributions have been secured from leading writers and thinkers in every English-speaking country. There are few publications that have served their readers with such a wide range of valuable and authoritative articles as have been published in The Grain Growers' Guide in the last ten years. It has been through The Guide that the rest of Canada is learning of the Grain Growers' Movement, its accomplishments and its plans. The Guide today goes regularly into the office of every important pub-

lication in Canada and is read carefully by politicians and business men throughout the length and breadth of the land. The Grain Growers' Movement has become a national factor with The Guide as its chief journalistic exponent. The Guide is also subscribed for by all the agricultural colleges and most of the university libraries on the American continent, where it is closely followed by thousands of students. It also goes into every part of the English-speaking world where men are seeking to improve conditions and want to know what the Grain Growers are doing.

As Official Organ

From the very beginning a special department in The Guide was set apart for each of the organizations who employ it as their official organ. These departments have been conducted by the provincial secretaries of these organizations. Every week for the last nine years the reports of the local associations have gone throughout the length and breadth of the prairie provinces. Seven or eight years ago farmers read of the work of the Grain Growers, and scores of local associations were organized by men who had only read of the work through the pages of The Guide. In the last two or three years the farm women have developed their own organizations. A department in The Guide has been set aside especially for their use and for the publication of the reports of their local associations. The organized farmers have always championed the cause of women in their demand for the franchise and have given them equal representation in their own organizations. Following suit, The Guide has supported the farm women in their work and sought to aid them in every way in bettering rural conditions in the West.

The Home of The Guide

One year after The Guide was first published, it was decided that the organized farmers should establish their own publishing plant. This plan was carried out and the incorporated name of The Grain Growers' Guide is and has been Public Press Limited. The first publishing plant was built in June 1909, on Sherbrooke street, Winnipeg. It was hoped at the time that it was big enough to serve the needs of the journal for ten years. Although three additions were made to the plant by 1917 it was found impossible to continue in such small quarters. Consequently, a handsome, reinforced concrete plant, 100 feet by 120 feet, and three stories high, was erected on Vaughan street, Winnipeg. The Guide moved into this new home in October 1917. When The Guide was first published in its own plant nine years ago, the staff consisted of six people, and in the printing plant there were 25 additional members. Today, in the new building, The Guide staff proper comprises 43 members, while the staff in the printing plant comprises 110 additional people. The entire plant is owned absolutely by the organized farmers. It is devoted to the publication of The Grain Growers' Guide and also to commercial printing by the farmers' companies and by the trade generally, and is one of the largest printing establishments in Western Canada. The cost of the new plant, including its equipment, was approximately \$250,000. The present growth of The Guide will make it necessary shortly to add additional stories to the building and to increase the equipment necessary to take care of a steadily growing paper. The plant is modern and up-to-date in every respect.

The Guides Artist

One of the features of The Guide, which has always been in great favor with its readers, has been the cartoons and the illustrations by The Guide artist, Arch. Dale. The Guide cartoonist, is the only member of the original staff now connected with The Guide. His cartoons have played a big part in the development of the organized farmers' movement, and are as popular today as they were in the beginning. Mr. Dale is still in The Guide office and a close student of the Grain Growers' Movement. Recently, for the entertainment of children and some older children as well, he has developed the

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